



2016

Drinking Water Quality Report



OUR FUTURE
IS CLEAR

LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

City of Las Vegas'
Report on the Water We Drink



Important Information About Your Drinking Water

What is this Report?

The City is delighted to present this year's Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report will provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of 2016's water quality. We are committed to providing you with this information, because informed customers are our best allies.

What We Do

The Utilities Department provides adequate, reliable, high quality water, sewer, sanitation and natural gas services in the an environmentally friendly manner at the lowest practical cost. The City of Las Vegas Water System has approximately 6,432 residential and commercial accounts, providing water for over 5,322 customers accounts within the City limits and 1,110 customers accounts within San Miguel County.

Your Water is Safe

Our water exceeds standards set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Last year we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants and all contaminants detected were below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

Where Does My Water Come From?

Our drinking water source is primarily surface water acquired from the Gallinas River and stored in Peterson and Bradner Reservoirs (Bradner Reservoir has been offline since 2015 for rehabilitation). A small percentage (less than 5%) of our drinking water is drawn from groundwater at the City's Taylor Well Field (as needed).

How Is My Water Treated?

Our water it treated in a "treatment train" that includes coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration and disinfection. Coagulation, flocculation and sedimentation removes dirt and particles from raw water. The clear water then moves through a filter removing the smallest particles. Then chlorine is added to kill bacteria and harmful microorganisms, before water is stored and distributed to the community.

Español

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuníquese con alguien que pueda traducir la información.

Is My Water Safe?

Why are there Contaminants in Drinking Water?

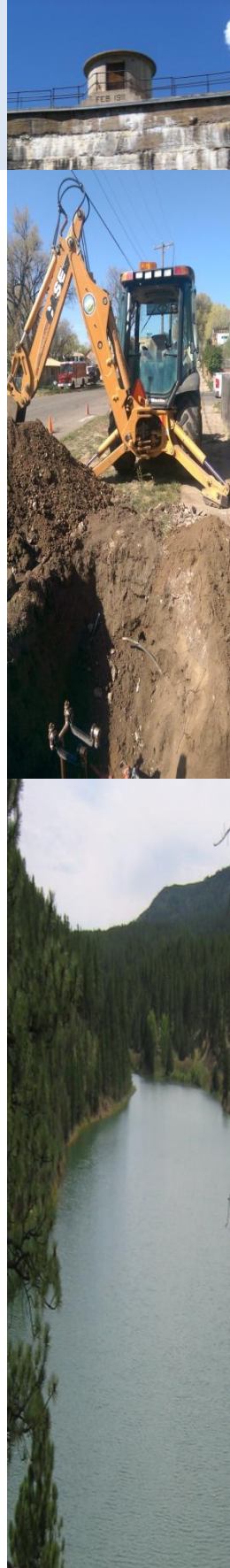
Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

Drinking water (tap and bottled water) sources include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, springs and wells. As water travels over the land or through the ground it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, which may include radioactive materials, and substances left behind from human and animal activity.

Some examples of naturally occurring and anthropogenic occurring contaminants include: microbiological contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that can come from raw sewage, livestock operations and wildlife; radiological contaminants, such as uranium and radium, which can be naturally occurring or a by-product of mining; inorganic contaminants such as fluoride, arsenic and other salts and metals which do not include carbon and can be naturally occurring or a result of farming practices, urban storm runoff or domestic wastewater discharges; organic chemical contaminants such as chlorine, trihalomethanes, synthetic and volatile organic chemicals which are by-products urban storm water runoff, raw sewage and petroleum and gasoline activities.

Additional Information for Lead

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily caused by materials and substances associated and found in service lines and household plumbing. The City of Las Vegas is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot regulate materials used for residential plumbing. When water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize your lead exposure by flushing your tap for at least 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may request to have your water tested; please look at the New Mexico Environment Department website for more information, <https://www.env.nm.gov/dwb/sampling/CertifiedLabs.htm>.



Water Quality Table

Description

The EPA has written and enforces regulations that limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems, as a means to protect human health. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the established limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health, as outlined by the EPA.

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of 2016. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful to human health. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of our health. A few naturally occurring minerals could actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels.

Term	Definition	Term	Definition
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.	ppm	parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best treatment technology.	µg/L	number of micrograms of a substance in one liter of water
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.	ppb	parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements or other requirements which a water system must follow.	pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
Variances & Exemptions	State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or treatment technique under certain conditions.	mrem/yr	millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)
MRDLG	Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.	NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
MRDL	Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is a convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.	NA	not applicable
MPL	State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level	ND	not detected
MNR	Monitored Not Regulated	NR	monitoring not required, but recommended
LRAA	Highest Location Running Annual Average		

Water Quality Table

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit	Violation (yes/no)	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	2016	0.5	0.4 – 0.05	4	4	ppm	No	Additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2016	0.0345 (LRAA)	0.003 – 0.044	No goal for total	0.06	mg/l	No	By-product of water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	2016	0.0758 (LRAA)	0.017 – 0.103	No goal for total	0.08	mg/l	No	By-product of water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit	Violation (yes/no)	Likely Source of Contamination
Fluoride	2016	0.2	0.2 – 0.02	4	4	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from fertilized fields
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Unit	Violation (yes/no)	Likely Source of Contamination
Beta/Photo Emitters	2014	1.3	1.3 – 1.3	0	4	Nrem/yr	No	Decay of natural or man-made deposits
Combined Radium 226/228	2014	1.05	0.06 – 1.05	0	5	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (excluding Radon and Uranium)	2014	13.6	1.6 – 13.6	0	15	pCi/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium	2014	7	0 – 7	0	30	µg/L	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Water Quality Table

Lead and Copper

	Collection Date	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90 th Percentile	# of Sites over AL	Unit	Violation (yes/no)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	2014	1.3	1.3	0.053	0	ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead	2014	0	15	1.7	0	ppb	No	Erosion of natural deposits; corrosion of household plumbing systems

Turbidity

	Limit Treatment Technique	Level Detected	Violation (yes/no)	Likely Source of Contamination
Highest Single Measurement	1 NTU	0.37 NTU	No	Soil Runoff
Lowest Monthly % meeting limit	0.3 NTU	100%	No	Soil Runoff

***Information Statement:** Turbidity is a measurement of water cloudiness caused by suspended particulate. Monitoring it is a good indication of water quality and the effectiveness of our filtration and disinfection systems.

2016 Violation Information

During the month of June 2016, we did not complete all monitoring requirements for Total Coliform, therefore we cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. Total Coliform samples were collected during this time, but were not accepted by the New Mexico Environment Department. The Total Coliform samples were rejected due to a second violation during this time, because the City of Las Vegas Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Sampling plan had not been approved by established deadline. The plan was approved for July of 2016 and the City is no longer in violation.

More Information

Do I Need to Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population, such as, the elderly, infants and other individuals with compromised immune systems. These people should contact their health care providers with questions on their drinking water. The EPA and Center for Disease Control (CDC) provide guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection from cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants.

Corrective Measures Taken by the City

We will strive to maintain and update sampling plans as needed to maintain compliance with the New Mexico Environment Department. The City will also continue the occasional flushing of the distribution system help reduce levels of contaminants mandated by EPA.

What Can I Do To Protect Our Source Water?

The protection of our drinking water is everyone's responsibility. You can help protect the community's drinking water in several ways, including: eliminate the excess use of lawn and garden fertilizers, they contain chemicals that can affect our drinking water source; if you have your own septic system, properly maintain it or consider connecting the public water system to reduce leaching; and dispose of all house hold chemicals and motor oils properly.

For More Information

More information about contaminants, testing methods, potential health and steps you can take to minimize exposure contact EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or visit their www.epa.gov/safewater.

More information on the City of Las Vegas Public Water Supply can be obtained online at www.dww.water.nm.env.nm.gov or obtaining a copy of the Source Water Assessment conducted by contacting David Torres at (505) 841-5306 or david.torres@state.nm.us or by calling the Utilities Department at (505) 454-3832.

How Can I get Involved?

The Las Vegas City Council meets regularly, information on dates and times is available through the City Clerk's Office, who can be reached at (505) 454-1401 or online www.lasvegasnm.gov. Consider volunteering with local watershed groups, which can be found on EPA's Adopt a Watershed network.





City of Las Vegas

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THANK YOU!

The City of Las Vegas' Water Department would like to thank the Community for their efforts to conserve our precious water resources.

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